

DPD 2683-62

23 April 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Meeting on United States/Soviet Space Cooperation, Department of State, 20 April

REFERENCE : a. Memo for DD/R, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs) from Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for Atomic Energy and Outer Space dated 16 April 1962; Subject: "Meeting on U.S.-Soviet Space Cooperation"

b. Memo for Dr. Wiesner, Dr. Welsh, Mr. Cartwright, Dr. Scoville, Mr. Bundy from Deputy Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for Atomic Energy and Outer Space, dated 18 April 1962; Subject: "U.S. - Soviet Space Cooperation" (DDR 104-62)

1. A meeting was held in the Department of State Friday, 20 April, chaired by the Under Secretary of State, to discuss the referenced documents above in connection with their impact on the forthcoming COSPAR meeting in Washington 30 April, as well as to afford an opportunity to discuss Soviet attitudes as indicated by the Dryden--Blagonravov conversations of last month.

2. The Under Secretary invited Dr. Dryden to open the meeting with comments on the two references, which he did along the following lines:

a. Dr. Dryden said that he felt the discussions had been fairly useful in establishing a climate for more serious and detailed negotiations, but he indicated that they did not cover in technical depth all of the subjects mentioned in the President's reply to Premier Khrushchev. For example, although the President's letter had proposed bilateral cooperation in the field of communications satellites, Blagonravov appeared to have been completely uninstructed, as well as uninformed, on the technical side of the problem. Dryden said that he appeared interested in cooperation in a limited way, and that Blagonravov was apparently anxious to receive

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U. S. proposals for definite projects that he could take back to the USSR as evidence of work having been accomplished in the meetings.

b. Dr. Dryden stated that "cold war elements in these sessions were at a minimum". The only such problem surfaced was that of the so-called "Spy-in-the Sky" matter brought up by Blagonravov which Dryden turned aside as "a legal and political problem". Dr. Dryden said that he felt the Soviets were receptive to possible agreements on coordinated launches and cooperative tracking. Within the past few days he had signaled Blagonravov through State channels asking for comments growing out of the March sessions, any new proposal or position papers developed by the Soviets since the New York sessions, and he further asked Blagonravov about his desires for a next formal meeting. No answer had been received, according to Dr. Dryden, as of 20 April.

c. On the subject of military reconnaissance, Dr. Dryden said that in addition to Blagonravov's rather hesitating comments on the subject of a proposed ban on satellite reconnaissance, the political advisers in the Soviet delegation had asked repeatedly for the inclusion of a formal ban on reconnaissance during the closing day when both delegations were debating the content of a proposed joint press release. As a matter of fact, since no agreement was possible between the two groups on this subject, the ultimate press release turned out to be a rather pale statement, which actually mentioned no specific proposals as having been subject to agreement.

3. Mr. James Webb, NASA Adviser, then expressed his preference for a program for step-by-step progress towards U. S.-Soviet space cooperation rather than through the mechanism of an all-inclusive "space treaty". Dr. Dryden added that in his opinion there was every indication that the Russians desired to use an international forum for the whole question of space cooperation, and he seemed to think that following a bilateral start on the question at first, the Russians might propose that it be considered multilaterally in the General Assembly or the Security Council. Dr. Wiesner added that he was inclined to favor Mr. Webb's views on step-by-step progress as being susceptible of easier accomplishment. Dr. Dryden then said that he felt it would be encouraging if Blagonravov was appointed by the Russians as their chief negotiator on substantive space talks but that he would be much less encouraged if Federov were to head the Russian group. Dr. Wiesner then commented that in his opinion it was still too early to make any valid judgment on the prospect for full-scale agreements on outer space subjects.

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4. The Under Secretary then said that he had just about reached the conclusion that the Soviets in this instance may have been earnestly seeking substantive agreements with us, as opposed to some of their propaganda efforts in the past. Dr. Reichelderfer then said that he could report positive interest in cooperation among his Soviet counterparts in recent months. Dr. Wexschler, also of the Weather Bureau, said that in his attendance of the WMO meetings at Geneva last month, the Soviets finally furnished his counterpart to the meeting, even though he was not in attendance at the time the session started, which was prior to Khrushchev's reply to Mr. Kennedy. One obstacle to full cooperation in the field of meteorological satellites seems to be, according to Wexschler, a basic opposition on their part to any read-out by this country of their meteorological satellite photography. Privately after the meeting Dr. Wexschler commented to me on this subject that he felt this reluctance was due to the fairly primitive state of the Soviet meteorological photographic art as compared with U. S. products. This deficiency he attributes to past emphasis in the Soviet space program which favored spectacular headline-attracting launches, as opposed to a purely scientific space program. Dr. Dryden added that he did think that the first Soviet meteorological satellite will be included in the present Cosmos series.

5. Dr. Wexschler continued in commenting on his counterpart scientists and their attitudes by saying that they were firmly opposed in the WMO meeting to constant level balloon systems for meteorological communication, and that several of these scientists had commented to him that this opposition was grounded in past U. S. attempts to exploit balloon systems for "illegal reconnaissance". He said that their entire attitude seemed to be that they preferred to water down U. S. specific proposals for cooperation to rather vague generalities. Part of this he attributed to what he feels is the definite lack of information exchange between meteorologists and "rocket people" in the USSR.

6. Dr. Welsh of the National Aeronautics Council said that he also preferred step-by-step agreement on individual projects as the way to greatest success. In company with Dr. Dryden he is of the view that in all instances the Soviets will insist on lengthy and definitive written agreements before committing to terms on a particular project. Dr. Dryden said that in the New York meetings the Soviets seemed to be opposed to any exchange of technical information on tracking stations' capabilities. He said this makes it easier for the United States to withhold similar technical information from them, an aim which he says his delegation was conscious of during the New York sessions. Dr. Dryden said that he was of the opinion that the May twenty-eighth Geneva meeting of the Legal Section of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would bring us face to face for the first time with the satellite reconnaissance question. He said as he saw it, the Soviets were preparing to give us "a rough time" at this

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meeting. The group agreed with the position taken by one of the representatives of the United States that the WMO meeting in May may also give us indicators of Soviet attitudes of reconnaissance satellites. Also Dr. Wexschler had earlier said that this subject was not brought up at the March WMO meeting.

7. On the question of coordinated launches, Dr. Dryden said that in the event the Soviets agreed to exchange photographs from weather satellites, the United States would then not need to launch as many of them as are currently programmed. Dr. Dryden also reported that there was discussion in New York of a joint consultative forum between United States and Russian bio-medical types as an aftermath of manned flights undertaken by either side, but that no formal agreement was reached.

8. The Under Secretary expressed his continued concern about "this spy-in-the-sky business", and after soliciting Dr. Scoville's views on the effect of this subject on bilateral space cooperation, he said that he was disturbed by current newspaper interpretations of the new restrictive DOD press policy, and he added, "We must find a way to change that". The meeting concluded on the note that the resumption of atomic tests this month may well have an immediately discernible adverse effect on space cooperation, possible evidenced as soon as the COSPAR meeting, as well as in possible walkouts by the Soviet representatives to the United Nations Outer Space Committee at their conclaves in New York.

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Attachments

Refs a, b

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